

No action on the first point has been attempted. The 1924 and 1929 Labour Government did a good deal on the second

On the questions of the ownership and organisation of the mines, there was full agreement between the Chairman, Mr Justice Sankey, and the six Labour members of the Commission., they recommended the establishment of national ownership, exercised through a National Mining Council, and the continuation of Government control until this was worked out. In the details of administration there were differences between the plan proposed by Mr Justice Sankey and that put forward by the Miners but on the main points they were in agreement, and that meant that these main points in a plan of Nationalisation, were advocated by a majority of the Commission. The Coal-owners with two experts, i.e. five in all, rejected unification altogether. Sir A Duckham, in a separate Report, advocated a scheme of unified trustification.

By the time the Reports appeared, few politicians had any doubt that, despite the loud talk at the time of the Election of 1918 by Winston Churchill and others in favour of the nationalisation of railways, etc., Mr Lloyd George and his colleagues were going to let the miners down. So it proved. The Government took no action on the Reports. An official strike in the Yorkshire coal field played into their hands. The M F G B made an effort at lousing some strong assertion of public feeling on their side, in their "Mines for the Nation" campaign. It failed.

The miners
were forced back on the purely wages issue
For a short
time, the hard realities of the mining situation
were masked
by the Ruhr occupation, and a great coal strike
in the USA
which stimulated the export trade, sent up
prices and wages
By 1921, however, this purely artificial
prosperity collapsed,
German Reparations coal began to pour into
markets already
overstocked and fed from new, home, sources of
supply At